

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 10, 2004. Claims 1-17 have been rejected. Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1-17 are pending in the application.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Caudwell(US Patent No. 3,989,333).

Claim 1, as amended now, recites:

A connectors-integrated directional coupler comprising:
a housing having an input connector integrally extended from one end of the housing and an output connector integrally extended from the other end of the housing;
a main line connecting the input connector to the output connector for delivering a signal;
a coupling line for inducing the signal from the main line thereto, and
an elongated hole extending from the input connector to the output connector for accommodating the main line therein.

Caudwell fails to teach, show or suggest that the elongated hole expending from the input connector to the output connector, as specifically recited in amended claim 1.

It is well settled that a reference that does not teach or suggest all of the features of a claimed invention cannot anticipate that invention. Since Caudwell does not teach or suggest all of the features of amended independent claim 1, as recited above, applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable and patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Claims 1-7 and 10-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang (US Patent No. 6,624,722) in view of Hsueh(US Patent No. 5,763,830).

The Office Action indicates that Wang teaches all the limitation in base claim 1, except connectors being integrally extended from ends of the housing. However, Hsueh discloses such

feature, thus would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the connectors of Wang as integrally formed, as taught by Hsueh, for easier manufacturing.

Applicant respectfully submits that the alleged combination of references fails to provide the disclosure, suggestion, or motivation that would have made the instant claims obvious. It is respectfully submitted that the Applicant's teachings that are being used in an improper hindsight rejection as a basis for alleging that the combination provides this motivation to an artisan. The combination fails to provide any such suggestion, and the skill in the art at the time of the invention would not have gleaned anything from the combination so as to make any of the instant claims obvious.

The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit has stated that:

The examiner must show reasons that the skilled artisan, **confronted with the same problems** as the inventor and with no knowledge of the claimed invention, would select the elements from the cited prior art references for combination in the manner claimed.

In Re Denis Rouffet, 47 USPQ.2d 1453, 1457-58 (Fed. Cir. 1998) (emphasis added).

The Office Action fails to meet this requirement. Nothing found in the reference cited in the Office Action addresses the **same problems** of the prior art solved by the present invention as defined in Claim 1. The features of Claim 1 address the need, in addition to simplify the manufacturing process, to eliminate a discontinuation in the process of transmitting a signal from the circular coaxial input connector to the circular coaxial output connector via a housing which causes a poor impedance matching (see page 3, lines 1-2). Nothing found in the cited references address such a need.

The mere fact that the prior art may be modified in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not make the modification obvious unless the prior art suggested the desirability of the modification.

In re Fritch, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266, 23 USPQ 2d 1780, 1783-84 (Fed. Cir. 1992)

Moreover, the Office Action's reliance on the present inventions teaches is improper. See *In re Wertheim*, 191 USPQ 90, 102 (C.C.P.A. 1976) (Applicant's own disclosures cannot be used to support a rejection of the claims absent some admission that matter disclosed in the specification is in the prior art.).

In addition, the Federal Circuit has also stated:

. . . rejecting patents solely by finding **prior art corollaries** for the claimed elements would permit an examiner to use the claimed invention itself as a **blueprint** for piecing together elements in the prior art to defeat the patentability of the claimed invention.

See *In Re Denis Rouffet*.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the rationale to modify or combine the prior art must be expressly or impliedly contained in the prior art or reasoned from knowledge generally available to a person of ordinary skill in the art (*In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988)).

Applicant respectfully submits that such rationale is not present in the teachings of the references and thus the claims would not have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 10-15 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.


If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to kindly telephone the undersigned telephone number listed below.

If there are any fees due and owing, please charge Deposit Account No. 502-470.

Respectfully submitted,

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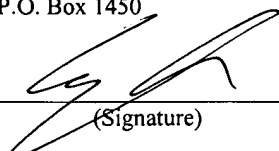
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